

EXTRACTS FROM THE DIARY OF JOSEPH HEATLY DULLES.

CONTRIBUTED BY CHARLES W. DULLES, M.D.

THE writer of this diary, Joseph Heatly Dulles, was born in Charleston, S. C., February 7, 1795. His father, who came to this country in 1779, and served in the defense of Charleston in 1780, was a man of position, married Sophia, daughter of Col. William Heatly and Marie Elise Courtonne, of South Carolina, and removed in 1812 to Philadelphia. He died in Charleston in 1818, while on a visit. His wife died in Philadelphia in 1848. He first lived in the house that stood on Locust Street close to the angle of Seventh Street, next to the Friend's Meeting House. His brother-in-law, Langdon Cheves, at the time when he was re-organizing the United States Bank, built and occupied the house now standing on the south-west corner of Seventh and Locust Streets.

Joseph Heatly Dulles, at the time of writing this diary, had just passed his examinations for graduation from Yale College in the Class of 1814. He afterwards lived in Philadelphia, though he spent part of almost every year on a large plantation in South Carolina belonging to him, which he managed in the most humane manner. The Civil War separated his person, but not his heart, from his native State. He died in Philadelphia, March 12, 1876. He married, April 21, 1819, Margaret Welsh, daughter of John Welsh and Jemima Maris, who was born September 2, 1797, and lived until November 10, 1897.

The companion to whom the diarist refers was James Potter, his classmate.

1814, Friday Morning, August 12th. At 9 we called on Mr M to get some introductory letters he had been so kind as to offer us. After sitting in the boat an hour waiting for passengers we started at 10 in an open sail boat for the opposite shore of the Lake, after toiling all day against a head wind, we at last arrived about 9 oclock at Plattsburgh. After calling at 3 places we were received—I can not say

accommodated, for the house was as wretched as the Wife of the Landlord, who wears the breeches, had left P. and taken every article of furniture with her. There were but 2 spoons in the house. We soon retired to a miserable bed after taking a bowl of milk.

Saturday August 13th, after breakfast I happened fortunately to see the stage which had omitted calling at the house. I hailed it and James and myself were soon seated in the waggon which is called a stage. At 12 we stopped in Chazy, which we were induced to do by the advice and example of D^r Bruno, a surgeon in the army whom I had seen at Ballston and Saratoga. We found here a much better house than we had left. We had not stopped one minute when there came on the most violent rain and Hail storm which I have seen for some years. At 5 James and I made an assay for the camp. We had an introductory letter to Captain Hall of the Dragoons. We walked to the spot where the Dragoons were encamped and asked for Cap^t H. The Sergeant of the Guard demanded our names which we gave; these were sent to the Cap^t. He sent word back to know our business. We then of course gave the letter and orders were sent to admit us and we were conducted to the Marquee of the Cap^t. and were received very politely by him. We were soon made acquainted with many of the Dragoon officers, Col. Ball, Capt. Hopkins, Lieut. Wright etc all Southerners. These all treated us with the greatest attention. To meet so many Southerners was very pleasing to me. The officers nearly all had servants, which made it look still more like Carolina. Capt. Hall is from Virginia, Capt. Hopkins from Kentucky, Col. Ball from Virginia or Maryland. We staid about an hour in Camp, and returned with a promise of breakfasting with our friends in the morning. We met here two Southern naval officers who invited us on board the fleet, offering to have a boat ready for us. We agreed to be on the shore at 11. We met at Home D^{rs} Bruno who came up with us & Wheaton. Both

of them sensible and intelligent men ranking high in the Medical department of the army. I am now where there is real service, every thing is military; but I do not find so many objects worthy of notice as might be expected. One thing I could not but notice viz. the excessive profanity of the officers scarcely an affirmation is made without its attendant oath.

Sunday, 14th August. We walked to the camp at 6, the hour we were to meet our friends. We were obliged to send to y^e Capt. for admission. He was unwell but Capt. Hopkins recognized our names and ordered the guard to let us pass. Capt. Hall had received a severe bruize from a fall he received yesterday occasioned by a horse's leaping over him. Of late leaping has become an established exercise or rather amusement of the troop. Capt. Hall at last appeared at 7. We sat down to a better breakfast than I expected to find in a camp so far removed from a well settled country. A fine beefstake with Herrings, dry beaf, Tea, Coffee, etc with very nice corn bread. All the officers of the troop except the Col. wear mustachios which is no addition to their beauty, tho' it may be to their ferocity of appearance; the Whiskers meet the mustachios, some of them make a strange appearance. Before breakfast we were treated to a Virginia Julip by Col. Ball; this drink they were surprised to hear was new to us. It is made of Rum water and a handful of mint pressed into it, and from the taste the spirit must have exceeded the water, it is not unpleasant. These gent. think a mint patch near an encampment, as a great treasure. I heard the story very often told that the Col. had discovered a fine patch 3 miles from the present encampment; for which the whole company seemed much indebted to him. After breakfast we walked a little about the camp saw Gen. Izard, Col. Drayton of S. C., Capt. Hamilton with whom I was acquainted at home; he is Gen. I's aid; Col. Pinckney and many others. At 10 we began our ride for the fleet it lies 3 miles distant at the

mouth of Chazy river. We were in a waggon a most uncomfortable vehicle; we rode to the lake side and ordered back our waggon, preferring a walk back to such a ride. In a few moments a midshipman informed that a boat was ready for us if we were the gent. who were to go on board the *Saratoga*. We stepped into the boat and were soon on our way. We found Com. McDonough on shore in a conference with Gen. Izard; we declined giving our letter to him untill he came on board. Lieut. Drury whom we had met at the Camp, received us as we came on board and handed us through a crowd of sailors in the midst of whom not a little to my surprise & more to my pleasure I found a clergyman preaching. We were soon placed in company with the officers, all standing, the sermon was now delivering. The preacher I soon recognized to be one of my fellow boarders a M^r Elliot once Chaplain to Congress, now to the army. His subject was against outward piety, not very applicable to sailors for they rarely profess to be pious; he said some suitable things however and I was not a little pleased at having not passed a Sabath without a sermon. Before he ended the Com. came on board; the greatest silence and every apparent attention prevailed every eye seemed fixed; I never saw any where a more attentive audience than this appeared to be, "they dare not do otherwise" said the Com. when I remarked this to him. We were after a message sent to the Com. asked into his cabin where we delivered our letter from M^r Mitchell. The Com. behaved very politely, but spoke very little, he has a fine countenance and what is much more is a most amiable man, not less loved than esteemed by his officers and crew. I never heard any officer spoken of by those under him as he is. the officers put the most unbounded confidence in his bravery and prudence. He never uses any profane language, for which even his profane officers and men esteem him, his manner is all mildness. A decanter of wine was brought on the table; a Midshipman came into the Cabin requesting the Com's company to day to dinner which he accepted. The

Com. wrote a note to the ward room as I supposed and a lieut. soon came requesting our company also to dine with the "gentlemen of the ward room." We left the Com. and parson to overlook the ship. We were politely attended by Lt. Drury, there was nothing new or peculiar about the ship. The Saratoga is a ship, the only one on the Lake carries 20 odd guns all carronades except 6, 3 on each side. She is very low for her size and her appearance is deceptive; she is much broader than she appears, having fine quarters. The sails had been unfurled to dry and we had the pleasure of seeing them all furled again; this was something new, in an instant the whole ship appeared alive every rope seemed to hang thick with men; the business was soon over and all again was quiet. Signals were given from our ship, which were answered and in a few moments the whole fleet had their sails completely furled. There are 3 large vessels beside the Saratoga whose names and force I do not recollect, 6 large and 4 small gallies; the large gallies have a long 24 pounder in the head and a carronade in the stern, has 60 men on board, is sharp each end; the small ones have about 40 men and one gun. They have a large 4 sided sail which is placed in the middle of the boat its length etc I could not easily ascertain, their force is great and most applicable to the lake service. The enemy must be drawn into wide water or our large vessels will be of very little use. The Com. could not persuade the Secretary of the navy to build gallies instead of large vessels. He regrets much that he is obliged to take a bad ground for the sake of defending the soil of a most treacherous and ungrateful set of people. He cannot move a few miles ever so secretly from his Ship, but immediate information is carried to the enemy; once he very narrowly escaped a party of Indians brought on by Americans.

At last dinner was announced to be ready; it was past 3 some time. We were soon seated the Com. at the head of the table 1st Lieut. at the foot. Com McD. gave the sig-

nal for attention before grace was asked ; this motion of his hand with his countenance was the most beautiful and expressive gesture I ever saw ; there was something peculiar in his look and the waving of his hand, I cannot hit, tho. the motion is still before me. This over we fell to eating. We had a fine roast pig Roast fowls, Hashed fowls, fried fish with some other dishes which made on the whole a very good dinner indeed. We had desert and blackberries. The Port wine was capital, the Madeira I did not taste. It was time for us to start after enjoying a good long sitting the Com. became more conversant and agreeable. The Parson James and I left the Ship with kind invitations to revisit the fleet, for w^h we returned the best wishes for success. We stopped and viewed one of the large gallies, they are open boats; tents are used on them in rainy weather. We landed and pursued our course on foot to the Camp, where we took leave of our friends to whose politeness I felt not a little obligated. We determined to night that if the weather was fair we would try a walk to Plattsburgh, 14 miles, the road very bad. Watched till past nine for the gun fired at 9 oclock at Isle au Noix.

Monday 15th August. We were awake at daylight this morning by the pouring of the rain on the shed. To make short work it rained tremendously all day—a very cold raw day, no wood in the house to make a fire; we bore it as well as we could. I read D^r. Clarkes travells in the East w^h I was fortunate enough to get from the Parson. At Dusk it ceased raining and we engaged a private waggon to carry us to Plattsburgh in the morning.

This evening D^r Wheaton gave me much amusement and instruction ; I drew him on, to a subject which he well understands and as is usual with professional men loved to converse on. One instance of Hydro-phobia twice cured by eating salt simply ; the man is now at Plattsburgh. In one of his fits he called for Salt ; a soldier near handed him a

bowl of it, which he devoured most voraciously; soon after fell into a sleep and awoke free from all madness. This some time after was repeated. A large number of men last winter, in the encampment at Burlington died of home sickness. The D^r said, often he would see a man, with a thoughtless countenance cutting a piece of wood or engaged in some foolish business of that kind, he would ask them what was the matter, the answer would be Nothing; no pain? no; Do you want to go home, his eyes would assume more expression, and he'd say, I would like. If the matter rested here the man would in a day or two be found dead; if the D^r ordered an officer to get his discharge, the knife is put up the stick thrown away and the man being deceived with the fond hope a few days recovers. D^r told of a man living 6 months on a bath of soup, being unable to receive nourishment within. A man being found often in a cook shop, where he said he lived on the vapour of the food was sued by the cook, for a theft was found guilty and condemned to pay a certain fine which was to be paid by sounding it in the ear of the cook.

Tuesday August 16th. At 5 we were up and waited till seven for our driver; he came at last and we were off. It looked like rain but we had a covered waggon after riding 3 hours over a very rough and dangerous road we arrived at Plattsburgh again. On the road are 4 or 5 fine stands for a retreating army, nothing could be better, real passes which a double force would be bold to attempt. A narrow causeway on each side of which is an impassible morass at the end of this is a firm ascent which commands the whole, here the retreating army can use its whole force being spread out, the enemy must be drawn up very closely. These places were hinted at to me by Capt. Hall. At 11 we arrived at Plattsburgh. A strong head wind no boat starting for Burlington we took breakfast at Foquets a pretty good one,—still a head wind. Plattsburgh is situated in a

fine bay which is unfortunately very shallow near the shore. It is overrun with grog shops and taverns. I know of no place which has so little like gentility in it; all looks vulgar. There is I am told a pretty good society of 10 or 12 families. A church is now erecting; the Court house is not an ill looking building. A stream runs through the town called Plattsburgh river; a bridge is thrown over it a little below the fall which is but a small one; a mill is situated at the falls. The streets are very dirty; on the whole its a pretty dirty place as far as I can judge.

While we were waiting for a fair wind to take our passage for Burlington, we walked about the encampment. James would not go with me to deliver a letter to Gen. McComb the commander here. The Gen. having left this place for Champlain, he returned to the house and I walked about. After seeing all I could from an external view I was returning when a sergeant with two men walked up to me and told me they had orders to take me. I was not much surprised at this as I had observed that I was watched closely. I of course complied and walked to the Guard House; the Sergeant of the guard here began to examine me, but I demanded admittance to the Commander, as I feared that their object was to insult me. I was then taken to a Lieut. who began the same course. I told him that I wished to see the Commander. He was Captain of the Guard, to satisfy him I shewed him my letter to Gen. McComb. He bowed very politely after having perused it, made many apologies and proposed walking with me to Col. Fenwick, the Com. of the forces here. As the centinels had behaved rather rudely I hinted to the Capt. that it would be well if it were necessary to be strict to be at the same time civil, the centinels at Chazy were very civil. I went immediately to the Col's Marquee where I found him, engaged in conversation with several officers. I handed him the letter to Gen. Mc, stating to him that I had been taken up on suspicion, while walking about the encampment. He

read the letter, laughed the matter off and requested me to return after dinner and that then he would walk with me over the fortresses; I thanked him and made my exit from the Camp. I began to think what proofs I could have shown beside this letter. I had no trunk or clothes with me, no papers in my pocket except a little book of expenses in which the first thing that presented itself to my view was two or three pages of sketches of forts which I remembered to have taken at Ticonderoga; this would have been sufficient cause to have detained me until I could have produced farther proof which might have taken some days at least. I returned to dinner very well pleased with my escape and the thought of having a full view of the redoubts etc at this place. I have never yet seen any thing of the kind except a few forts. At the dining place I found a stranger who had yesterday been detained three hours in confinement. We took at Foquets a very poor dinner and I persuaded James now to accompany me to the camp. We went to the Col's Marquee where after waiting some time the Col. came. I mentioned frequently about my being from Charleston and enquired about people from there. Col. Fenwick is himself from Carolina. We sat here some time, before we began our view of the fortresses;—the Col. was fixing up a drinking establishment, two or three kegs of liquor. He walked with us over the redoubts which are no doubt very strong, there are three forts which make a complete cross fire on an attack made in any direction, they all have deep wide ditches around them, which must be impassible as long as any degree of resistance can be made. The forts are built of wood. and are so positioned that the strongest can command the other two if they should be taken possession of by the enemy; they have now been constructing about 2 weeks and will be finished in a week or more. There is a large body of militia at work on them with Gen. Wooster at their head; he is Captain of the vet exempts who are at work here. If the enemy attack in front the town

must I think be destroyed by our batteries. At 4 we observed that the wind had changed we thanked the Col. for his politeness and made haste for the wharf whence the Burlington boats sail. They were all off, one of them not far. I left James to pay our bill and ran to stop this boat which I succeeded in doing; James paid the bill but vexed me by staying on the shore fearing to go near the centinels which he must do to get at the boat; after many signals I brought him to the place, where we got into a large clumsy sail boat. After sailing about 2 hours the wind died away and we rowed the boat ashore at Peru a small village 8 or 10 miles from Plattsburgh it was nine oclock before we got here and then very dark. After beating against the rocks some time we forced the boat near enough the shore to get to it dry. Near the shore was a boat in which were men harpooning fish. In the head of the boat was a vessel containing combustible matter; a man stands by it with a harpoon whilst one in the stern guide the boat; it seemed to me like a wild goose chase, these men caught one salmon in the course of the night. We found our way up to house where we were told we might be accommodated; roused the old lady & after a little parley she agreed to receive us. We made a hearty meal on bread and milk & hominy and had a bed made on the floor which was very acceptable to us.

Wednesday, 17th August. I spent a terrible night. Some part of last night I was woke from my sleep by a rattling on my head and face of some thing I could not tell what; the first idea was that a swarm of insects had poured down upon me. I shook my head and inverted my position putting me feet to this place as the dropping still continued. In the morning I found that there happened to be just over my head the granary of the mice of the house, they had ate a hole through the ceiling and were letting down on me a shower of bran. Not a particle of wind this morning.

At 8 we started with a light breeze which was as inconstant as possible; every now and then a breeze would carry us 2 or 300 hundred yards and then leave us or shift to another quarter; what wind we had was directly a head we beat about the lake all day untill 1 we passed Valcour Island etc.

Met several squals, one of them very warm had nearly capsized us; we had to let fly all sail, to save ourselves. We thought it prudent to stop as the squals were becoming more frequent. We put in on the East side of the lake at Bell's Island, and thence to the main, where after a mile walk through the woods we found a house, sent back for our great coats and after eating some Hurtle berries and milk determined to walk the rest of the way, which was 8 miles. We paid our passage only fifty cents & sat out. At this house were a dozen or more sick Children and women, it seemed to be a resort for sick people and I was glad to get from it. We walked 4 miles from Colchester point to Onion river through a baren wood, but the walk was shady and pleasant. We crossed the river in a boat and walked 4 miles farther to Burlington, where we arrived about sunset not much fatigued, though we had eaten nothing the whole day but a few hurtle berries. After taking tea we called on Mr Mitchell where we met young Webb an old schoolmate of mine at Weathersfield. We spent a pleasant evening. Mr M. regretted that his lameness prevented his shewing us more attention.

Thursday, 18th August, 1814. After breakfast I obtained direction to a cave near this place of which I had heard something and got James to accompany me to it. We walked to a house about 2 miles from Burlington where we found a little boy who was to direct us to the spot. At a little distance back we struck down a hill in a road which when we had followed some hundred yards we left for a foot path our guide proceeding on his road. We had to make out our way as well as we could through this swamp by

stepping on logs which have been laid here for this purpose but are now completely decayed. About 200 hundred yards brought us to the mouth of the cave which we could not mistake as it was large and opened directly to the Cave. This cave is I suppose a large one, and if it could be possibly kept dry would afford a good retreat for a pretty large body of men, its appearance is handsome. The floor is covered with water which is continually oozing through the ceiling in every part; with some difficulty I made a passage with logs to the end of the Cave and took a measurement of it as well as I could, as follows: the mouth is something this shape [drawing made which has been crossed out] 10 feet at the upper width 3 at the narrowest and 12 at the foot, there is a large rock at the mouth which nearly closes the entrance—it is 54 feet long, 20 feet at its greatest breadth which is at the opening of the cave where it is 30 or 40 feet high—this is a few feet from the mouth, the back of the cave is only 10 feet high the lowest part of it is 7 which is a few feet from the back—at this spot it is 15 feet wide just behind it are two recesses one of them 6 the other 9 feet back in the rock neither are very high, the width in the rock at the back is the greatest. About 30 feet it is perfectly light. Except in the two recesses at the back—there is a hole in the top at the back about 18 inches diameter the extent of which I could not discover, having no long pole, the water is about a foot deep is clear and very cold, of a good taste. The rock is what I take to be quartz, it may be a hornstone or something of that kind, the outside easily decays, there are no signs of stallactites except a little incrustation. I found on the road near this place an Indian axe made of this stone, it was a large one 6 inches long by 4, I broke it for a specimen of the rock. After gratifying our curiosity by a full survey of this singular object we returned through the bog; little has been conjectured respecting the formation of these extensive cavities in the firmest rocks usually they extend farther than

means will allow to search them, ending in lakes. I could see nothing about this which could lead to a supposition of its being formed by any other means than creation, for purposes which our short sighted views can not comprehend. We returned very well pleased with our expedition being better pleased than we had anticipated. We called on Mr M. to request his aid in getting a view from the College Cupalo, he gave me a note to a young man who lived there, on whom with James and Mr Webb I called after dinner. We got easy admission into this building which is now used as barracks for our soldiers.

The view is very fine, a most majestic scene is formed by the high mountains rising one behind another as far as the eye can reach, before them is a fine sheet of water interspersed with several islands which serve to increase the beauty of the prospect; this view is on the west, on the east you have mountains which out reach the eye and are lost in the Clouds. These are the Green mountains, so famous in American Geography and History—this range of mountains extends from West rock at New Haven as far as Onion river and perhaps into Canada, the country here is all mountainous, and highly picturesque. Burlington is a beautiful harbour. The U. S. pay for the College building \$6000 yr and are to pay for all repairs and damages, this is a monstrous imposition, there are fine barracks in this place which it is said have never been full. The building is a fine one 160 feet long, there are 48 rooms in it, which are not very convenient for students; they are now very filthy, it is 4 stories high, built of brick with a projection in front, in the middle, in this part are the largest rooms which are appropriated to public use.

President Sanders was an indecisive character, and besides was a Socinian, he would take no bright professors for fear of displaying his own ignorance; the professor of Oriental languages is now Postmaster, priest and lawyer; this letting the house it is thought will bring money enough to

set the College on its legs again. James and I proceeded to take a view of the falls of Onion river 2 miles farther. They are pretty but not to compare with Glenns falls or those of the Pasaic; the bed of the river is a silicious stone of a greyish colour; the fall is nowhere high, in some places very rapid. We extended our walk a mile farther to see something of a curiosity; the river is here compressed into a narrow stream, by passing through a lime stone rock, the top of which is perhaps 80 feet from the surface of the water; there is a bridge here from which the passage of the river makes a singular appearance. We made our way home by sunset engaged our seats in the stage for Middlebury to morrow, at 4 O'clock. We had sent our clothes out to be washed they did not return at night when we wished to pack our trunks I went to bed James sat up untill 12 when the Clothes arrived half dry only. I got up packed them and arose at 4 O'clock.